8. The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj shall support the development of Rural Business Hubs (RBHs) through Public-Private-Panchayat Partnerships, so as to upgrade local skills and products and find markets for them. The effort would particularly be on RBHs focusing on rural tourism, organic farming, food processing, handicrafts, horticulture, floriculture, micro-hydel and other renewable energy technologies.

9. The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj undertakes to provide technical assistance to Goa to build capacity of Panchayats to undertake the obligations of the recording and preserving of bio-diversity in their areas, as mandated by the National Biodiversity Act.

10. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj will pursue the devolution of Central funds through united block grants and systemic reform of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, including the establishment of a Panchayat Empowerment Incentive Fund to bring these in conformity with the constitutional provisions for good governance at the district and village levels as set out in Part IX read with the relevant articles of Part IX A.

Sd/-

Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar,
Union Minister for
Panchayati Raj and Youth
Affairs & Sports.

Shri Pratapsingh Raoji
Rane,
Chief Minister,
Goa

Funds to States for Panchayati Raj Institutions

†185. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds have been disbursed to the States as per the recommendation of Twelfth Finance Commission;

(b) if so, the funds Madhya Pradesh will receive for the year 2005-06 for three tier Panchayati Raj Institutions;

(c) the details of the funds released out of the same; and

(d) by when the remaining amount would be released?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The Twelfth Finance Commission has recommended an amount of Rs. 20,000 crore for augmenting the Consolidated Funds of the States for supplementing the resources of Panchayati Raj Institutions for the period 2005-2010. Funds are being disbursed to the State Government as per the *inter-se* allocation made by the Twelfth Finance Commission.

(b) to (d) Madhya Pradesh has been allocated a total amount of Rs. 1663 crore for the period 2005-2010. For 2005-06, the amount of Rs. 332.60 crore due has been released in two equal six monthly instalments in September, 2005 and February, 2006.

Schemes for awareness among representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions

†186. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes being operated to create awareness among the representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions and members of standing committees of Gram Sabha and to train them;

(b) whether funds are provided by Central Government and State Governments both to train the representatives of Panchayats and members of standing committee of Gram Sabha; and

(c) if so, the details regarding ratio thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) In the current year, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj is implementing the scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Yojana with an allocation of Rs. 50.50 crores. One of the components of this scheme is 'Training and Capacity Building' under which funds will be provided to the State Governments for training of elected representatives and officials of Panchayati Raj Institutions. The Central allocation for this component is Rs. 30 crores. The training is given by the State Governments through the State Institutes of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development and Extension Training Centres.

(b) and (c) Funds for the aforesaid scheme are provided by Central Government and State Governments to train the representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions in the ratio of 75:25.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.